

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER 94-008

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR:

STINSON BEACH COUNTY WATER DISTRICT,
MARIN COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, hereinafter called the Board, finds that:

1. The Stinson Beach County Water District (District) operates an On-site Wastewater Management Program (OSWMP) in the town of Stinson Beach. The District is responsible for the management of discharges of sewage-bearing wastewater to individual leaching or percolation systems in the unsewered community of Stinson Beach.
2. Stinson Beach is located on the Pacific Ocean approximately 20 miles north of San Francisco and the Golden Gate. The area is effectively isolated from other population centers in Marin County by extensive areas of Mt. Tamalpais State Park and Marin Water District lands to the east and south and the Point Reyes National Seashore to the north and west and is bordered by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

There are approximately 650 developed parcels using septic tank systems in the Stinson Beach area. The main drainage channel in the town is Easkoot Creek, which runs from the steep slopes in the northeast area of town, southerly through the community before entering the southeast end of Bolinas Lagoon.

BACKGROUND

3. The Stinson Beach OSWMP was established in the late 1970's following a series of State and Regional Board actions regarding failing septic systems in Stinson Beach:
 - a. In 1973 the Regional Board amended its Water Quality Control Plan, San Francisco Bay Region (referred to as the Basin Plan) to prohibit waste discharges to individual leaching or percolation systems in the Stinson Beach area;
 - b. In 1976, after the discharger initiated several studies and plans to comply with the Basin Plan and still allow continued use of septic tanks, State legislation was passed giving the discharger authority to establish a septic tank maintenance district for the control of sewage system discharges.
 - c. In 1978 the Board passed a Resolution 78-1, which allowed the discharger to initiate a demonstration program to regulate the individual septic systems under an approved program entitled *Rules and Regulations, SBCWD Wastewater Management Program*. The OSWMP was initiated in 1979. Under the OSWMP the discharger assumed responsibility to oversee the repair and maintenance of failing waste treatment/disposal systems by individual homeowners. The OSWMP also includes District inspection and enforcement programs and water quality monitoring programs for both surface and ground waters in the area.
 - d. In 1987 a Joint Powers Agreement with the County of Marin, Environmental Health Department was amended granting Stinson Beach full authority over all septic system construction and management. The discharger thus took over responsibility for new systems in addition to the repair/replacement of existing systems.

APPLICABLE PLANS & POLICIES

4. The Board's Resolution No. 78-14, *Policy of Discrete Sewerage Facilities*, states in part:

"This Regional Board will apply the following principles to all wastewater discharges:

- a. The system(s) must be designed, constructed, and installed so as to be capable of preventing pollution or contamination of waters of the State, or creating nuisance.
- b. The system(s) must be operated, maintained, and monitored so as to continually prevent pollution or contamination of the waters of the State and the creation of nuisance.
- c. The responsibility for both of the above must be clearly and legally assumed by a public entity with the financial and legal capability to assure that the system(s) provide protection to the quality of the waters of the State."

The Stinson Beach County Water District is the public entity assuming responsibility for seeing that wastewater treatment and disposal in the Stinson Beach area complies with these principles.

5. The Board adopted a revised Basin Plan on September 16, 1992, and it was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on April 27, 1993. The Basin Plan prohibits the discharge of wastewater with particular constituents of concern to beneficial uses to both surface and ground waters.

BENEFICIAL USES

6. The beneficial uses of Pacific Ocean (PO) and Bolinas Lagoon are:

- Industrial process supply (PO)
- Preservation of Areas of Special Biological Significance(PO)
- Navigation (PO)
- Water contact and non-contact recreation
- Wildlife habitat
- Fish migration and spawning
- Preservation of rare and endangered species
- Ocean commercial and sport fishing
- Marine Habitat
- Shellfish harvesting

DISTRICT PERFORMANCE REVIEW & OTHER FINDINGS

7. On November 9, 1992 a moratorium on new septic system approvals was issued to the District by the Executive Officer, due to a failure of the District to adequately administer its own operating Rules and Regulations. The District was required to revise its operation and management practices to bring its program into conformance with the OSWMP and Regional Board policies and resolutions.
8. In October 1993 the District submitted a technical report outlining specific operating and management changes that have been implemented and future planned actions designed to bring the District into conformance with its OSWMP. The major program changes include:
- a. An internal audit of the OSWMP;
 - b. The initiation of substantial rate increases to better support District programs;

- c. Hiring of new professional staff to implement the programs;
 - d. Re-establishment of design review and approval practices; and
 - e. More direct program and project approval oversight by the General Manager and District Board.
9. On November 2, 1993 the Executive Officer granted the District a limited and conditional relief from the moratorium based on the District's corrective actions. Additional actions required of the District are outlined in the Provisions of this Order.
 10. Adoption of waste discharge requirements is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 2100 et. seq.) pursuant to Section 13389 of the California Water Code.

NOTIFICATION AND MEETINGS

11. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with the opportunity for a public hearing and opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations..
12. The Board, in a properly noticed public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Stinson Beach County Water District, pursuant to provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

A Prohibitions

1. There shall be no bypass or overflow of sewage from collection, treatment, or disposal systems to waters of the State.
2. The discharge of waste other than domestic wastes into individual leachfields is prohibited.

B. Discharge Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal of waste shall not create a nuisance as defined in Section 13050(m) of the California Water Code.
2. Wastewater discharged to leachfields shall:
 - a. Remain below ground surface at all times; and
 - b. Not be allowed to leach, seep, or flow into surface waters of the State.
3. The disposal of waste shall not cause degradation of ground or surface water suitable for domestic water supply or cause an increase in any water quality parameter that would impair beneficial uses of said waters.

C. Provisions

1. The District shall comply with all sections of this Order immediately upon adoption .
2. The District shall require any individual treatment, disposal, and monitoring facility or control system regulated by the District to be maintained in good working order and operate d as efficiently as possible to achieve compliance with these waste discharge requirements.

3. Compliance Schedules

The District shall comply with the following schedules:

TASK	COMPLIANCE NO LATER THAN:
a. Revised Inspection and Surface Water Monitoring Programs	
Submittal of proposed programs to Regional Board	February 1, 1994
Program Implementation	February 15, 1994
b. Revised Ground Water Monitoring Program	
Submittal of proposed program to Regional Board	May 1, 1994
Program Implementation	July 30, 1994
c. Revised District Regulations	
1) New construction, repair & replacement regs	
Draft revisions to Regional Board & District Board	April 30, 1994
Final District Board adoption	September 30, 1994
2) Revised program procedural regs (Ord./Policies)	
Draft revisions to Regional Board & District Board	June 30, 1994
Final District Board adoption	September 30, 1994

Within 15 days following a District Program Implementation or District Board adoption deadline, the District shall file a written report with the Executive Officer documenting District compliance with the above actions.

4. The District shall comply with the Self-Monitoring Program for this Order as adopted by the Board and as may be amended by the Executive Officer.
5. The District shall comply with the attached *Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements* (where appropriate), dated August 1993.
6. In accordance with California Water Code Section 13267(c), the District shall permit the Board or its authorized representative:
 - a. Entry upon all permitted premises in which any required records are kept;

- b. Access to copy any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this Order; and
- c. Inspection of monitoring equipment or records.

7. This Board will review this Order periodically and may revise the requirements as necessary.

I, Steven R. Ritchie, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of the Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on January 19, 1994. .



Steven R. Ritchie
Executive Officer

Attachments:

Self-Monitoring Report
Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements

File No. 2159.5027
Originator/RJC

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

SELF-MONITORING PROGRAM

FOR

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

ORDER NO. 94- 008

STINSON BEACH COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
MARIN COUNTY

January 19, 1994

I. GENERAL

Reporting responsibilities of wastewater dischargers are specified in Sections 13225(a), 13267(b), 13268, 13383, and 13387(b) of the California Water Code.

The principal purposes of a monitoring program by wastewater discharger, also referred to as a self-monitoring program, are:

1. To document compliance with wastewater requirements and prohibitions established by this Regional Board; and
2. To facilitate self-policing by the discharger in the prevention and abatement of pollution arising from wastewater treatment and disposal.

II. GROUNDWATER SAMPLING AND ANALYSES

Following Executive Officer approval of a revised groundwater monitoring plan the District shall install monitoring wells and implement groundwater monitoring to document the quality of surface water and groundwaters.

III. REPORTS TO BE FILED WITH THE REGIONAL BOARD

1. Violation of Requirements

In event the District is unable to comply with conditions of the Wastewater requirements and prohibitions the District shall notify the Regional Board in writing within two weeks of the non-compliance. The written report shall include pertinent information explaining reasons for the non-compliance and shall indicate what steps are being taken to prevent the problems from recurring.

2. Self-monitoring Reports

Written reports shall be filed regularly on a quarterly basis; the fifteenth of January, April, July (part of Annual Report) and October. The Reports shall be comprised of the following:

a. Letter of Transmittal

A letter transmitting self-monitoring reports should accompany each report. Such a letter shall include a discussion of violations found during the past quarter related to the District's program and actions taken for correcting violations. The letter shall contain a statement by the official, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of the signer's knowledge the report is true and correct.

b. Program Information

- 1). The following information should be included in the quarterly report:

The report should be broken down into components, e.g.:

- a) Significant issues
- b) Progress of required activities in the Permit Provisions
- c) System Reviews
- d) Site Inspections

- e) W.Q. Monitoring summary issues
 - f) Enforcement actions/projections
- 2) A septic system review chart should also be established and included in the report that includes, at a minimum:
- a. Applicant
 - b. Type of system under review
 - c. Date of review
 - d. Citation, if applicable
 - e. District reviewer
 - f. Outside reviewer, if applicable
 - g. Recommendations by staff and/or outside reviewer
 - h. Brief results of review
 - i. Who had final sign off
 - j. Recommended action/follow up
- 3) It would also be useful to have a chart showing total number of systems by type, number reviewed, number failing, number inspected, citations issued, number complying, and number recommended for further enforcement action. The more detailed information could be placed in an appendix.

The quarterly report content and format may be changed in consultation with Board staff.

3. Annual Report

An annual report shall be submitted by July 15. This report should summarize for the past calendar year all the information collected in the quarterly reports. It should also include a discussion of the overall success and weaknesses of the program, with recommendations for changes or improvements.

I, Steven R. Ritchie, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing Self-monitoring Program is effective on the date shown below and may be reviewed at any time subsequent to the effective date upon written notice from the Executive Officer or request from the Producer, and revisions will be ordered by the Executive Officer.



STEVEN R. RITCHIE
Executive Officer

Effective Date: January 19, 1994